Charles Colson, NBC "Today" Show, both halves last hour HW 2/7/75

Prior to going to jail his last appearance was with Barbara Walters on Today. This, she boasted, was his first since release

First half WG. Last domestic intelligence. Questioning around Dean's quotation of Colson after Dean's release, confirmed by Colson. In those cases where she asked.

Nixon did say what Dean said about Burger being for Nixon on suits. Burger thought that the effort to get Nixon's tapes, etc., was a "disgrace." Nixon also said that "blackmun was praying for him."

Nixon did not indicate basis for saying these things.

12/73 Nixon said "he would not sit and preside over the destruction of the Presidency and that if he lost in the Supreme Court he would resign."

in 12/73 Nixon wanted Agnew out when "there was the possibility of an indictment." Nixon "was very much involved in the negotiations that got Agnew out, the deal, with Richardson.

Domestic intelligence:

"Most" of the information against Ellsberg "came from the FBI." It had already leaked to the Copley papers the stuff on the "lawyers." Did he mean more than Boudin?

FBI spying on public official, prominent people "not new."

Colson got FBI reports on "an unfortunate incident in Senator McGovern's life" and more. "The other was an old report on former President Kennedy" from World War II. Hoover had these files in his desk, apparently as insurance, and gave to Nixon when it appeared that Teddy might be Nixon's opponent, in 1972.

JFK report related to "a female Nazi agent" and JFK, then a Navy lieutenant, was then followed by FBI agents. But it was "only a gossip thing."

Having made clear that he was talking about sex matters Colson refused to so describe them, pretending a decent-guy pose and insisting on calling these "personal" matters only.

Colson did read "all the CIA files" on Watergate. "From what is in the files...it is inconceiveable to me that the CIA did not know in advance of the WG break-in," from "the people who were working for the CIA."

"Bennett obviously knew a great deal in advance" and he and others involved reported to the CIA.

Bennett knew of other break-ins. (Colson did not say which they were and he had to know. Not asked.)

CIS had to know in advance of the Fielding break-in.

"The Director of Central Intelligence was aware of everything that was going on."

They developed pictures and "Dr. Fielding's name was on the door and that was blown up and encircled."

Nixon "had to"know of CIA domestic work.

"Dr. Kissinger was more concerned than anyone else in the White House, including President Nixon," over the Pentagon Papers. Kissinger also knew of the Plumbers.

He laid it on K, saying that Nixon regarded him as unstable, and that Nixon had to restrain him, as on bombing VN, etc. Real heavy, and making Nixon look better as well as undercutting K.

CIA bugged embassies. In files he read. It was then gathering "trade data" re Chile for ITT and"less /national security/ than it was commercial interest."

CIA had FBI instal bug Chile. Hedges on Israel, citing what McCord did instead. McC phoned Chile, Isreal embassies because he knew they were bugged and he would be taped.

Colson always promotes himself. This time also Nixon and Baker and anti-CIA, FBI, Kissinger. No real questioning, ni effort to get him to disclose what he knew, none about his own involvements.

He is writing a book. He has finished a chapter. But he claims not a WG book and not for publication soon.